

REMARKS

The Office Action sets forth a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Group I (claims 1-45 drawn to a mop), Group II (claims 46-51 drawn to a kit), and Group III (claims 52-57 drawn to a method of making a mop). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the requirement for restriction. However, pursuant to the requirement of 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the claims of Group I, namely claims 1-45, for prosecution in this application, in the event that the Examiner adheres to the restriction requirement.

There are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions : (1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed, and (2) there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required. M.P.E.P. § 803. Applicants respectfully submit that even given that the inventions of Groups I, II, and III are distinct, it is not clear that it would be a serious burden on the Examiner to search and consider all of the inventions and claimed subject matter at the same time. As set forth in M.P.E.P. § 803: "If the search and the examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner *must* examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions." (emphasis added).

The inventions of Groups I, II, and III all pertain (at least in part) to a mop element. Thus, it appears that the examination of the inventions of Groups I, II, and III could be carried out at the same time in the instant application without a serious burden being place on the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement in its entirety. Furthermore, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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